

## REPORT

OF

## THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS,

IN

*Compliance with a resolution of the Senate, relative to the cost of improving certain streets, avenues, and public squares in the city of Washington; the amount received from sales of lots, and the value of lots granted by Congress to literary and other institutions in said city.*

DECEMBER 15, 1845.

Read, and ordered to be printed.

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS,  
December 12, 1845.

SIR: In compliance with the resolution of the honorable Senate of the United States, passed the 9th of January, 1845, directing the Commissioner of Public Buildings "to report to the Senate, at the opening of the next session of Congress, what particular streets, avenues, and public reservations in the city of Washington, are, in his opinion, required by the public convenience to be improved; the extent of improvement proper for each, and the cost of the same respectively, by gravelling, or pebble paving; also, that he, at the same time, report to the Senate the amount received by the government from the sales of lots in the city of Washington, the value of lots granted by Congress to literary or other institutions, and the amount expended by government in making streets and footways within the said city;" I have the honor respectfully to report, that the particular streets and avenues which the public convenience requires to be improved are, North Capitol street, from the capitol to the boundary line; Four-and-a-half street, from the city hall to the penitentiary and arsenal; Seventh street; Maryland avenue; New Jersey avenue, from the capitol to the eastern branch; and Indiana avenue, from Third street to the capitol; but as some of these have been in part improved, and will probably be still further improved by the corporate authorities of the city, I beg leave to mention two only of importance to be now made by a public appropriation, and to which, I am informed, the city resources are not adequate.

These are Four-and-a-half street, leading from the city hall and court house to the penitentiary and arsenal; and Indiana avenue, leading from Third street to the capitol. By the improvement of Indiana avenue, the approach to the capitol from the Patent office, General post office, and city hall, would be shorter and easier than by the Pennsylvania avenue, which

